E & P H (1940) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 5612

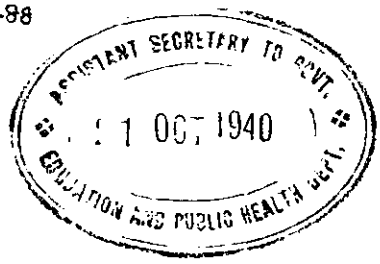
28

Dated 28-11-1940

[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical Treatment - Headquarters Hospital - Mangalore - Harsha Golar - Petition - Papers recorded.

The Employers' Federation of Southern India,
MERCANTILE BANK BUILDINGS,
DARE HOUSE
POST BOX No. 35.
PHONE No. 4488



Madras, 21st October 1940.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education & Public Health,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Dear Sir,

Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore

I am directed to forward to Government copies of correspondence exchanged between a Member of this Federation (the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., Calicut) and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras. I also attach copies of letters which I addressed on the 11th and 27th September to the Surgeon-General and a copy of his reply Ref.In.R.No.9030E, dated 30th September.

My Committee feels that the complaint made by the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., has not had adequate attention by the Surgeon-General, and I am therefore directed to ask that Government will be good enough to make further enquiries into the matter.

The Commonwealth Trust Ltd. allege, and are able to adduce independent evidence to show, that the Government Wenlock Hospital staff neglected to dress the wounds of a patient, Harsha Gojar (who was a workman in the employ of the Commonwealth Trust Ltd.) as promptly as the seriousness of the case demanded; this patient was left in the hospital with his injuries undressed from 10-30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the 23rd May last, and succumbed to his injuries four days later.

My Committee feels strongly that there was a grievous dereliction of duty on the part of the Wenlock Hospital staff, and I am directed to ask if Government will be good enough to institute full enquiries into the circumstances of the case. My Committee feels sure Government will agree that in view of the seriousness of the facts disclosed by the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., the reply made by the Surgeon-General to my Federation on the 30th September is hardly a satisfactory one.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

Copy forwarded for information to T.G. Rutherford, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser to His Excellency The Governor.

Encls; Referred to the Surgeon General for remarks.

GEW/EH

NG 22/10. Asst. Secretary to govt. Pl put up A's orders on the Copy sent to the Surgeon General. 23/10/40

Medical Department

From Major-General N.M. Wilson C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S.
Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras
Madras.

To

The Secretary,
The Employers' Federation of Southern India,
Madras, Post Box No.35.

InR.No.9030E, dated 30th September 1940.

Sir,

Reference:- Your letter dated 19-9-40 about the patient who succumbed to his injuries sustained by a fall in the Commonwealth Engineers Works at Mangalore.

I again red through the correspondence carefully and examined the hospital records of the patient. It appears to me that everything that could be done to the patient had been done, and I am quite prepared to accept the statement of the District Medical Officer that there was no dereliction of duty to the patient in this case as alleged in the complaint.

Sd. N.M. Wilson,
Major-General I.M.S.
Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

27th September 1940.

The Surgeon-General,
Medical Department,
Government of Madras.

Dear Sir,

I should be glad of a very early reply to my letter to you of the 11th September.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. C. E. Walker

Secretary

11th September 1940.

The Surgeon-General,
Medical Department,
Government of Madras.

Dear Sir;

My Federation has been consulted with reference to the Commonwealth Trust Ltd's letter to you of the 27th May and your reply R.No.9030E dated 3rd August, 1940.

From the particulars which Commonwealth Trust Ltd. have furnished to this Federation it appears to my Committee that there was a grievous dereliction of duty on the part of the Wenlock Hospital staff, and I am directed to ask if you will be good enough to reopen this matter and cuase a full enquiry to be made into the circumstances by a senior officer.

The Commonwealth Trust Ltd., is able to adduce independent evidence to show that their workman, Sri Harsha Gojar, was left in the hospital with his injuries undressed from 10-30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the 23rd May last; the patient succumbed to his injuries on the 27th May. I am therefore directed to press most strongly for a full enquiry into the circumstances.

I should be glad if your would please let me have an answer at your very earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Sd, G. E. Wallen

Secretary.

Copy

27th May 1940.

A/2660

The Surgeon General with Government,
Civil Medical Department,
100, Mount Road,
Madras.

S i r,

We enclose in duplicate an extract from a letter dated the 23rd May 1940 addressed to us by Mr. D.P. Adams, Manager of our Engineering Works, Mangalore, South Kanara, which is self-explanatory, and from which it would seem there has been serious negligence by the medical authorities of the Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore, in attending and treating the injuries of Mr. Harsha Gojar, an employee of our Engineering Works, Mangalore.

We regret to inform you that we have this morning received advice from Mangalore that the workman concerned, Mr. Harsha Gojar, died of his injuries this morning, and we consider that the circumstances of this case are such as to warrant an investigation being made by you into the particular aspects of this case, and in general, into the question of improving the service at this Hospital.

We shall be obliged if you will acknowledge receipt of this letter and advise us that the case of Mr. Harsha Gojar is having your attention.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servants,

for THE COMMONWEALTH TRUST LTD.
(Sd) A.H. Gunn
Asst. General Manager
In India.

COPY

(Extract from letter dated the 23rd May 1940 from Mr. D.P. Adams, Manager, Commonwealth Engineering Works, Mangalore, to the Commonwealth Trust Ltd., Calicut)

"One of our temporary workmen, Harsha Gojar, fell on the morning of the 23rd May at 10.30 a.m. through the Iron Store roof whilst he was repairing same. He was rendered unconscious by the fall and also cut his arm and head. I took him to the Government Wenlock Hospital in my car and handed him over to one of the Doctors, who is the Resident Medical Officer, Mr. I.Vasudeva Rao, by name. They examined him on what is termed the accident table, which is on the outside verandah in full view of other patients and quite a lot of people who are passing to and fro. Later in the morning they shaved his head in order to see the wound there. I sent down one of our staff to see how he was at mid-day and I learnt from him that the man was still on the accident table and that they had not as yet dressed his wounds. At 1 o'clock one of our workmen called in also to see this man and the policeman, who was on duty at the Hospital, informed him that the man had been calling out for water to drink and nobody apparently had paid any attention to him; so this workmen stayed with the man and looked after him until 3.30 p.m. when he returned to the Factory and reported to the undersigned that the man's wounds were still undressed and that the dresser had refused to dress the wounds until particulars of the man's accidents had been recorded by the Doctor, who was supposed to be in charge. At 4 o'clock I went to the Hosptial myself and the Doctor had just arrived to dress the wounds. I questioned him as to why it had taken so long to give this man attention and the only excuse offered was that he had to be kept under observation, and from what I learnt from the workman who stayed with this man, nobody paid any attention or made any observations from 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. when he returned to Engineering Works.

I would be pleased if this matter would be reported and for some action to be taken by the Surgeon General that would improve the service at this Hospital."

EH.

Enclosure to A.

Medical Department

From Major General N.M. Wilson, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S.,
Surgeon General with the Government of Madras.

To

The General Manager,
Commonwealth Trust Ltd., Calicut.

R.No.9030E. dated 3rd August 1940.

S i r,

Ref: Your letter No.A/2660 dated 27.5.40 regarding treatment of Mr. Harsha Gojar in the Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore.

The Surgeon General made enquiries into the complaints against the staff of the Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore. He finds that there is no justification for the complaints made by Mr. D.P. Adams as the patient was given all medical help that was necessary for him at that time.

(sd) .....

for Surgeon General with
the Government of Madras.

EH.

From D.P. Adams Esq.,
Engineering Works, Mangalore.

To F. Ferrelly, Esq.,
General Manager,
C.T.L., Calicut.

19th August, 1940.

Dear Mr. Ferrelly,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., together with copy of enclosed letter from the Surgeon General. I am pleased to note that as you have not received any satisfaction from this Officer you are prepared to press the matter further.

I confirm that up to 3.30 p.m. the man's wounds were not dressed and that when Mr. Vaidyanathan and myself visited the Hospital at 4 p.m. the man was still on the accident table, upon which I saw placed when I originally took him to the Hospital in the morning, and the Doctor had just walked up to the table to dress the man's wounds for the first time. This statement is herewith vouched for by Mr. Vaidyanathan in writing and if necessary I can produce other witnesses from Engineering Works to prove that all I have stated in previous correspondence about this case is perfectly true.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. D.P. Adams.

Mangalore,

19th August 1940.

On 23-5-1940 I proceeded with Mr. Adams to the Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore, at 4 p.m. and found a Medical Officer just beginning to dress the wounds of Harsha Gojar, one of our temporary workmen, who was admitted to the Hospital at 10.30 a.m. that morning for injuries received due to a fall from the roof of our Factory. The Medical Officer, when questioned, as to why the patient was not attended to at once, could only give the excuse that he was under observance all the while.

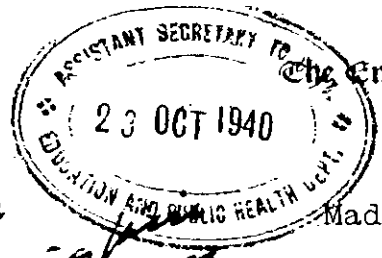
I confirm that the patient, when admitted to the hospital, was in an unconscious state, and no attempt seems to have been made to render any aid to the patient till 4 p.m.

Sd. A. Vaidyanathan.

Enclosure to C.

EH.

POST BOX NO. [illegible]
PHONE NO. [illegible]488



The Employers' Federation of Southern India,
~~MERCANTILE BANK BUILDINGS.~~
DARE HOUSE

Madras, 21st October 1940.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
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43501

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Yours faithfully,

G.

Secretary

Copy forwarded for information to T.G. Rutherford, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser to His Excellency The Governor.

Encls:

GEW/EH

Medical Department

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Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras
Madras.

To

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KH.

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EH.

Enclosure to A

Medical Department

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Surgeon General with the Government of Madras.

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R.No.9030E. dated 3rd August 1940.

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for Surgeon General with
the Government of Madras.

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Yours sincerely,

Sd. D.P. Adams.

EH.

Encl.

Mangalore,

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Sd. A. Vaidyanathan.

Enclosure to C.

EH.

Edn&PH
D2

23/10/40

Petition - The Employers' Federation of Southern India-Madras - Headquarters Hospital, Mangalore - allegations against -

---

. Petn from the Employer's Federation of Southern India Madras dt 21.10.40

Memo 43289 - I D2 PH dt 25.10.40

25/10

Referred to the S.G. for remarks. He is requested to submit his office file on the subject, in ~~original~~ along with his remarks

NG
28/10/40
Work
23/10/40

28/10

24/10

To
The SG (with CF in orgl)

pp 1-2, 23 & 24, & 5-20.

Lee

Note Please see Asst Secretary's remarks on p 3 CF and A 3's orders on p 21 CF

NG
29/10/40
Work

29/10

4C

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Received 12 NOV 1940 19 . Registered 46397 19

Subject.

Petition-The Employers Federation of Southern India, Madras-Government Headquarters Hospital, Mangalore-Allegation against the staff.

ENCLOSURES.
No. One file R 90306/4 30.9.40
Spare copies

R No. 18931/Establishment

Station Madras, Dated the 11th November 19 40.

From (Name) Major General N.M. ilson, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S.,
(Designation) Surgeon-General with the Govt. of Madras.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
EDUCATION AND UBLIC HEALTH Department.

Sir,

p39 above at (N).

Reference:- Government Memorandum No.43289-1 D2/P.H., dated 25-10-40.

In forwarding herewith the original records relating to the above case, I wish to state that all reasonable precautions were taken by the District Medical Officer, South Kanara and everything possible was done in the treatment of the workman of the Common-Wealth Engineering Works, Mangalore.

2. The enclosures received with the Government Memorandum are herewith returned.

Major General, I.M.S.,
Surgeon-General with the Govt. of Madr

R.V/9-11

Petition - The Employer's Federation of Southern India - Madras - Headquarters Hospital, Mangalore - allegations - against -

---

From the Employer's Federation of Southern India dt 21-10-40.

~~From the S.G No 18931-B dt 11-11-40~~

Extract of A3's remarks on p21 -

"The S.G.S file may be called for. Prima facie, this appears a bad case."

T.G.R
22.10.40.

From the S.G No 18931-B dt 11-11-40

The original records are at (T). Attention is also invited to the remarks of the S.G on p.41/CF

~~The file is now submitted for orders~~

NG
12.11.40.

Submitted
13/11 Sec
A3

Work
18.11.40

According to the D.M.O's statement there was no neglect & the treatment was at the same time such that a lay ~~spectator~~ visitor would think that time was neglect. It is curious however that the records on p. 19 begin only at 7.30 p.m., although the patient is said to have been under observation since the morning. So also (apparently). cf. 21. But the inference to be drawn from this seems to be a matter for someone familiar with hospital practice. The S.G. especially looked into the case & was satisfied: it is a pity that he did not write more fully & remove the misconception.

A reply may be sent that the patient was given the accommodation available & that the S.G. is satisfied that the omission to handcuff was not the case required.

EWS

14/Feb/40

As.

Give him a fairly detailed
reply as they have
subsequent knowledge by
a perusal of statements
and the case record.
that he was given ~~the~~
as satisfactory ~~treatment~~ as
possible ~~under~~
~~Prison~~ observation by

A draft D.O. is submitted for
approval.

NA
20.11.40.

Work
20.11.40

Sd/ 21/11 Sd/

Sd/
21/11

~~The D.O. to the Secretary~~,
pp5-6 below D.O. No. 43289-1 D2 PH dt 22.11.40.

60
22/11

D.O. 43289-1 D. P.H. 22/11/4

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter dated 21-10-40 in regard to the medical treatment of Harsha Gojar in the Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore -

I have called for the original records of the patient Harsha Gojar and perused the statements found case records they are satisfied that the patient was given as satisfactory treatment as was possible.

I am to add in this connection that the accident table, to which Mr. Adams refers is an emergency bed or into which serious surgical cases are received in the first instance, first aid rendered and the cases watched till an operation is decided

22/11/40

p60f (T)
SGS RNo.90306
30.5.40.

upon and a bed made
available inside the wards.
As regards the allegation
that the wounds were not
dressed by the hospital
staff immediately it is
may be stated that the
wounds on the head were
cleaned antiseptically
but no heavy dressings
were put on the head (except
a light bandage) lest
they should interfere with
the action of the ice bag;
the wound on the arm
was however duly dressed
and bandaged as were
all cases as important

Yours sincerely

To

G. E. Walker Esq.
Secretary
The Employers
Federation of
Southern India
Dare House
Madras

Copy to the Surgeon

80/28/11

POST BOX No. 35.
PHONE No. ~~4698~~ 4488

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVT. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. 24 NOV 1940

The Employers' Federation of Southern India,
~~MERCANTILE BANK BUILDINGS.~~
DARE HOUSE

Madras, 23rd November, 1940.

The Secretary,
Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Dept.,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

pp 5-6 above

Thank you for your D.O.No.43289-1 D2 P.H. of the 22nd November on which I am taking my Committee's instructions, and about which I shall write to you again after receiving them.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

MEW/MdeR.

E.P.H. (D2)

Submitted for perusal
It seems unnecessary to keep the file open. The papers may now be
Abstract
Medical Treatment -
Headquarters Hospl -
Mangalore - Harsha
Gojar - Petition -
Papers Recorded -
MS
25/11/40.

order 5612 P.H. dt 28.11.40
MS
Recorded.

Dept. Dp2 Section
Date 27/11

25/11

To The SG (Q+O) with enclosure (RNO 90308 dt 30.9.40)